

REMARKS

I. INTERVIEW

Applicants extend thanks to Examiner Rimell for conducting the personal interview ("Interview") on December 19, 2001. The comments of Examiner Rimell on the subject were greatly appreciated.

During the Interview, the undersigned attorney briefly described the disclosed invention, then discussed proposed claim amendments to claim 13 and a proposed new claim 26. The undersigned attorney then discussed the features in proposed amended claim 13 and proposed new claim 26, which are not taught or suggested in Halvorson.

In particular, proposed claim 13 requires a correlation between the drug preparation data and the plurality of printers, wherein the input device and the control unit are operable to enable a user to modify the correlation between the drug preparation data and a plurality of printers. Claim 26 requires a memory storing a table, which includes a plurality of drug type codes and a plurality of printer codes, and each of the drug type codes correspond to one of the printer codes. Claim 26 further includes a means for changing the drug type codes and/or printer codes through an input device while displaying the table on a display.

The undersigned attorney urged, and Examiner Rimell agreed, that Halvorson fails to teach or suggest at least the above identified limitations.

Examiner Rimell then stated that such limitations would raise new issues, and therefore would require a further search, and therefore would not be considered at this point in the prosecution of the present application.

The undersigned attorney then indicated that a Continued Prosecution Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) ("CPA") would be filed. The undersigned attorney further indicated that the CPA would include a response to the outstanding Office Action, wherein the response would include an amended claim 13 and new claim 26, as discussed in the Interview, in addition to further dependent claims.

II. STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

Claims 13-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 13-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 13 and 26 are the only independent claims.

III. AMENDMENTS

Claim 13 has been amended to require the input device and the control unit to be operable to enable the user to modify the third set of data, so as to change the correlation between the drug preparation data and the plurality of printers, by way of modifying the fourth set of data. Claim 27 corresponds to claim 15, claim 28 corresponds to a combination of claims 16-18, claim 29 corresponds to a combination of claims 19 and 20, claim 30 corresponds to claim 21 and claim 31 corresponds to a combination of claims 22-25.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 13 by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

No new matter has been added.

IV. CLAIMS 13-31 ARE NOVEL WITHIN THE MEANING OF 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) OVER HALVORSON BECAUSE THE APPLIED PRIOR ART FAILS TO TEACH A CORRELATION BETWEEN THE DRUG PREPARATION DATA AND THE PLURALITY OF PRINTERS, WHEREIN THE CORRELATION MAY BE MODIFIED

Claims 13-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Halvorson, as described in paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-25, as amended, and newly added claims 26-31, are novel within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), for the following reasons.

The drug preparation order system of the present invention permits a user to easily modify printing instructions corresponding to the various printer stations.

Specifically, claim 13 recites *inter alia*, a drug preparation order system comprising a control unit having a data storage portion and a printer setting portion, a monitor connected to said control unit, an input device, and a plurality of printers,

wherein said monitor is operable to display a fourth set of data corresponding to the structured correlation between the drug preparation data and said plurality of printers, and

wherein said input device and said control unit are operable to enable the user to modify the third set of data, so as to change the correlation between the drug preparation data and the plurality of printers, by way of modifying the fourth set of data.

Newly added independent claim 26 recites *inter alia*, a drug preparation order system for use with a drug preparation order sheet, the system comprising a control unit including a memory **for storing a table which includes a plurality of drug type codes and a plurality of printer codes, each of said drug type codes corresponding to one of said printer codes**, a display, and a plurality of printers, the control unit further including an input device a means for associating each of the plurality of sets of data with one of the drug type codes, a means for associating each of the plurality of printers with one of the printer codes, **means for displaying the table on said display, means for changing the drug type codes and/or printer codes through the input device while displaying the table on the display**, and means for activating one of said printers that corresponds to the drug type associated with one of the plurality of sets of data to print the one of the plurality of sets of data on the drug preparation order sheet when a command to print the one of the plurality of sets of data is entered.

Halvorson teaches a system for dispensing medications in a health care institution. In particular, Halvorson discloses a system comprising a plurality of medication dispensing stations, wherein the inventory of each station is updated in a central computer. Specific instructions for dispensing medication may be printed at each station upon demand. However, the system of Halvorson does not repeatedly print particular labels at specific dispensing stations. Consequently, the system of Halvorson does not include data that is modifiable by the user, and that indicates to the user, a correspondence between each printing station and the data for which it is printing. More

particularly, **Halvorson fails to teach or suggest a monitor that displays data corresponding to a structure correlation between drug preparation data and the plurality of printers, or the ability for a user to change the correlation**, as is required in amended claim 13. Further, the system of Halvorson **fails to teach or suggest a table that includes a plurality of drug-type codes and a plurality of printer codes**, wherein each drug type code corresponds to one of the printer codes, or a means for changing the drug type codes and or printer codes through the input device while displaying the table on the display as required in newly added independent claim 26.

As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference, *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Commission*, 808 F.2d 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1986), based on the foregoing, it is clear that Halvorson does not anticipate claims 13 or 26.

Furthermore, since claims 14-25 and 27-31 are dependent upon claims 13 and 26, respectively, and therefore include all the limitations thereof, Applicants submit that claims 14-25 and 27-31 additionally are not anticipated by Halvorson.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 26 are not anticipated by Halvorson, and urge that the rejection of claims 13-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), be withdrawn.


V. CONCLUSION

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to
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13. (Amended) A drug preparation order system comprising:
- a control unit operable to carry out logic operations and to output control signals based on drug preparation data, said control unit comprising
 - a data storage portion and a printer setting portion, said data storage portion being operable to store a first set of data[, the first set of data] corresponding to the drug preparation data[, and
 - a printer setting portion];
 - a monitor connected to said control unit, said monitor being operable to display a second set of data[, the second set of data] corresponding to the drug preparation data;
 - an input device operable to enable a user to enter the [first set of data] drug preparation data and a third set of data corresponding to a structured correlation between the drug preparation data and said plurality of printers into said control unit; and
 - a plurality of printers connected to said control unit, said plurality of printers being operable to print on drug preparation order sheets in response to the control signals,
 - wherein said printer setting portion is operable to store [a] the third set of data[, the third set of data corresponding to a correlation between the drug preparation data and said plurality of printers],
 - wherein said monitor is operable to display a fourth set of data[, said fourth set of data] corresponding to [a] the structured correlation between the drug preparation data and [the third set of data] said plurality of printers, and
 - wherein said input device and said control unit are [is] operable to enable the user to modify [any one of the first set of data and] the third set of data, so as to change the correlation between the drug preparation data and the plurality of printers, by way of modifying [any one of the second set of data and] the fourth set of data.